Ms.
921
1820
v.7

7

267 ____ 307

267

—never was more strikingly ~~illustrated~~ than

of the

that

Ms.
921
1820
vol. 7

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by this Monarch whose favourite Mistress, [redacted] if she might be called so, whose particular ascendancy (temper disqualified for his bed) derived her influence from having discovered that the most certain way to rule her paramour was to vary the amusements of the passive day & hour incessantly by proposing t. ⊙320 of these varieties / the common custom of the Bourbon / Jemmeraz has preserved a specimen so surprisingly dissimilar to the rational & human occupation the history of which is given herewith, that it seems better to stop with the vagaries of Antoinette than to be stored

~~within the hollow crown~~

within the hollow crown

That round the temples of a mortal king, —

Every one day in the Museum grounds [redacted] royal domaine at Versailles, he one tall person in a rich court dress, with a hat of stags horns affixed to his head, wearing jack spurs, [redacted] pursued by a number of others, all in court dresses. The former wearing a cord in the park immediately plunged on & scrambled through, followed by the whole pack. Our voluntary prompter, on asking the meaning of this scene, was gravely informed it was for the entertainment of the Court. — The story, if he was some unfortunate namesake of Louis's preceptor, might have been alleged to be in character, though [redacted] Comte is not often run down in France;

Ed 272

207 continued

pretext, but it was so evident the Astronomer Roy[illegible]
-al found it much easier to adopt this nefarious course
than to reply to

of Longitude (synonimous with his own)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

consummately rash
[illegible]

-terminable if they could; terribly under a public [illegible]
[illegible] terminated with personal hostility, that it could
not be much expected [illegible]
[illegible] Dr. Jones it was to employ himself in this
manner [illegible] the strictures on his examination of the succes-
-sful Time Keeper, "published under the authority of the Board
" of Longitude," [illegible]
[illegible] that there was not a court of judicature
in the kingdom but would have reprobated this perverted stretch
of their power.

The moral correctness of the part which William
Harrison [illegible] bore in this transaction is deserving
of notice; as he must have secretly felt the pressure of the
disappointment, when it appeared [illegible] that the royal sanc-
-tion was as much a cypher in the arithmetic of the Commis-
-sioners, as the estimate of the damage done by Dr. Maskelyne
to his Fathers machines; which, from that spirit of favourit-
-ism which frustrated the purposes of their institution, is no
where to be found. He was under no obligation to prevent his ene-
-mies from running their heads against the wall, by these [illegible]
[illegible] demonstrations; but as a patriotic man,
who desired not to profit by the "confusion worse confounded"
which their folly might have created, [illegible] he may be conclu-
-ded to have mollified the resentment, which it is probable his
royal Patron would feel (for something must be conceded to human

To be inserted the

The copy of this Letter

were

under date, December 18th 1772, to John Robinson Esqr.

nature) in the first instance, at finding all the trouble he had volunteered to incur, thrown away; by showing him this memorandum of what passed at the Admiralty to 1545; in which unkindly, the passage [redacted] referred to, tended to blunt the edge of that cutting instrument, into which they had converted the "brief authority" they were armed with.

A petition to Parliament being now the only resource against misfortunes originating ten years before, in the Earl of Morton having been insufferably provoked [redacted] by a non compliance with the impossibilities he projected, measures were taken by the junior Harrison, with the advice of "George 3d. of these United Kingdoms" to form a friendly party in the legislature, opposed to that which it was [redacted] Commissioners of Longitude, after this dictum, would exert all their influence to muster against the prayer for the reliefs sought. As a matter of course, Lord North would be among the first applied to. — ~~This was in a long letter, which the Author remembers seeing, and having his boyish curiosity indulged with reading the whole~~ is missing, but the same arguments [redacted] embodied in another, which is preserved, addressed, [redacted] Secretary to the Treasury, & supposed to be his Lordship's chief confident. As the applicant took no step of any moment without consulting his Majesty, the reason of this auxiliary duplicate was probably, that the King, from a knowledge of his Minister's constitutional temperament, told him, Lord North would be in danger of falling asleep over the business, without this precaution; by which it was designed

269

that

-bow, or something equivalent to

the Premises

" willingly

-ess of the Claimant (& how could he be ignorant of it?)

M. Robinson should give his principal a jog on the el- a fillip on the nose (for he loved a joke) to avert such an awkward sequel to the importance attached to support of the petition. This prudential step, however, does not appear to have been attended with the results looked for. His Lordship manifested either so much apathy, or so much indifference to the subject, that on the 2d. of March following William Harrison thus writes. — "I have at last got my answer "from Lord North, which, like all the rest, is nothing at all;" and again "Lord North seems to pay no attention at all, but would "waive off every thing that takes public money out of the "common channel of pensions, &c. To O. 628"

"That the honourable Frederic North, first Lord of the Treasury, & Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a knowledge of the interest his royal Master took in the success should, notwithstanding this surmise, have given occasion for the above account of an application to him, by direction from that quarter, for his own interference in the matter, is enough to "confound the wisdom of "the wise, & to bring to nought the understanding of the prudent." — If by "all the rest" was meant, as seems, those who took the lead on the side of Administration in either House, who were solicited for their support, it favours the notion that, in this country, the consequence of the Prime Minister, for the time being, outweighs that of the royal Office. To 550

270 Whether it be that "the loaves & [redacted] fishes", as they are called, are more immediately under his distribution, [redacted] in the present case

day of battle came (as is usual on the second reading)
reverberating voice in support of the

from ○ = & where the carcase is, there will the
" vultures be," is an enquiry we waive.

Insert at ◇ (borne by certain cabinet men)

Insert at ▭ the usual display of Whig & Tory muster rolls.

Disclosu

the political centurions, manipuli & cornets, whose standard was the purse of the state, lay on their arms, but on the look out, for the nod of command, not from St. James's, but from Downing Street. Not so, the gentlemen of the opposition, who, when the [redacted] volunteered with one [redacted] aged Claimant; their device being the goddess, Astrea, who seemed to have descended through the roof of St. Stephen's arena, with the Ægis of Love for their panoply. The petition of John Harrison thus, incidentally, introduces [redacted] the curious & novel spectacle, of his Majesty at the head of that phalanx to which he was opposed on the subject of the American war, but to which he owed the victory on the question unincumbered with [redacted]. W. Fox advocated the hearing of the petition when it was presented, & we shall soon introduce his colleagues; but for the present must observe, — it would be a very mistaken inference, to imagine that after the application his Majesty had already given the subject, [redacted] it sufficed if he wished well to the inventor of the Timekeeper, in his endeavours to recover the second moiety of the reward, so long detained. This friend to merit, was not a friend by halves; as the letter above quoted furnishes indubitable evidence of the patient attention the King gave to the details of proceedings adopted for that purpose. — It [redacted] also the extraordinary fact, — that but for the consolation, the kind encouragement & countenance derived from such a source, the father & son, totally despairing of success, would have drop

to the

-sion of this monarch

-ped the further prosecution of their object, as quite hopeless.
The passage which ascertains a circumstance at once so im-
-portant to the petitioner & his descendants, & so honourable
[redacted] persevering consistency & humane condescen-
[redacted] is as follows. — "as I before told you, I will not leave
"a stone unturned, & therefore have now in the press a case to
"give to every member of Parliament; & which you may ex-
"-pect to see in a few days. I do not think it possible to
"get any more of our reward; — but my business, after
"this, will be, to sit down quietly, without having to say to
"myself, — had I taken such or such a step, I might have
"succeeded. I am certain if I do not succeed now, it will be
"morally impossible afterwards; as I have an opportunity of
"laying before his Majesty, every Tuesday, every thing I have
"done: & I do not write one word, or take one step, without
"acquainting him with it."

The junior Harrison being unfortunately / like his father / not a man of reading unconnected with his avoca-
-tions, nor viewing circumstances in a light foreign to the anxious purpose of his pursuit, the observations on the pro-
-minent characters of either House of Parliament, in that day, which may be conceived to have incidentally arisen out of the conferences & counsel he was thus honoured with, & which, as coming from such a quarter, would be enquired for by the future historian, are wholly lost.

The debates [redacted], on the first & the third reading of the petition, have been [redacted] sought for without success; but those on the second, which [redacted] seems always considered the most impor-

cattering [illegible] for

Note continued from ¶ 267

but such a chase would not have much of hilerated
any who could read & write; or this side the channel; &-
I feare Peter would have objected with a fearful
oath, that the dogs could never recover the scent if
they lost the sight. — Should the curious [illegible] the an-
-tiquary, we find Lewis Jeffreys like Abel Drugger;
having in his laboratorie wiped the letters, obtained
-ned at an experiment by which a Scottish Alchymist
undertook to verify the discovery of the philosophers
stone; not indeed in the production of gold, but of virgin
silver; a specimen of which, from the crucible, or lea-
-rned, proved of the same alloy as the French crown. to ¶ 506
Charles 2. [illegible] & Ferdinand 4.
of Spain & Naples respectively were conspicuous for a-
-fairs but their inordinate & useless ambition for a pow-
-erful peace: the supreme & contemptible delight of the
latter Bourbon being to play the cruel butcher. This last act

If we return home, how shall the nobility of

-tail, are preserved; & from the speeches of Sir George Savile & M. Burke being given in the first person, it would appear that the reporters found their interest in the public curiosity.

"April 27th The Petition presented from John Harrison,
" [illegible]. The Inventor of the Timekeeper; &c — was again read.
" Sir George Saville. — I think, Sir, it is a disgrace to this
" nation, that a man who, as his petition sets forth, has spent
" forty years of a life of now fourscore, in studying and
" making so great a discovery as his watch most certain-
" -ly is, was should still remain without his reward, though
" he had the positive engagement of Parliament to depend
" on. I much wish, Sir, that he might at once have his
" just due, & that speedily, lest heaven should give him
" that reward which his country most unjustly denies him.
" By the act of Queen Anne, which offered the premium, he
" is absolutely entitled to it, his Watch having gone to the West
" Indies, with as accuracy in the performance much within
" what is required by that Act. But by the last Act, which
" was explanatory of the first, & which was framed in conse-
" -quence of his claim, there arises such difficulties, that it
" seems the Board of Longitude cannot do him justice. This,
" I think, is so great a grievance upon a man who has made
" a Discovery highly important to that art upon which the
" wealth, power & happiness of this country so essentially de-
" -pends, that it would be to the last degree cruel not to repeat [illegible]
in order that he may have his claims adjudged by the first
" Mr. Dyson spoke to the form of this matter, being a-
" -gainst Sir George's proposal to □532; and [illegible]
" [illegible] Lord North remarked, that Mr. Harrison, in his pe

George 3. appear to advantage when contrasted with the fountain of honour; that attribute with which the constitution endows the chief magistrate, which the Author would show by the ~~transactions~~ detailed transactions he has given was most happily merited by this Prince.

The discernment of ~~to~~ Duke of Bridgewater in pro-
-moting that Act gave Bridgewater much to the advantage of the country as well as the enlargement of his own property, undoubtedly claims attention; & Viscount Mahon (afterwards Earl Stanhope) wrote "Considerations on the gold coin" highly worth the attention of Government & the public. Every noble, any more than every commoner, cannot expect his merit should arrest the trump of fame, but it is in the power of all to be use-ful, each in his ~~sphere~~ sphere — to obtain from pur-suits neither improving to the intellect, nor salutary example to those not so favoured by fortune, nor yet to the numerous others ~~who depend~~ whose dependance is on manual labour. — To Thought not George Walpole Earl of Orford, brother to the Statesman of that surname, Nature had destined him for a huntsman, & the idle purpose of his lengthened life was to produce a breed of dogs superior to any other for the chace. A purpose which were it accomplished in the degree some sportsmen desire, would tend to thin the field, by diminishing that alternate hope & fear so necessary to the ardour of this, almost any other pursuit in life. Besides that the breed of game

"-tition, rather arraigned the Board of Longitude; & observed,
"that, as the Board had required other Timekeepers & experiments
"to be made, which were not yet concluded, it would be pro-
"-per to call for the minutes of that board, relative to the
"transactions concerning W. Harrison, before a conclusion
"could be come to.

"W. Edmund Burke. W. Speaker, I must own, I am
"astonished at the replies which have come from the other
"side of the House. Where, Sir, is the dignity, where is the
[redacted], where ever the justice of the representatives of a great,
"powerful, enlightened, & maritime nation, when a petition of
"of a man is laid before them, claiming not favour but justice;
"claiming that reward which the law would give him, & to
"see it refused, upon what principles? Why, a man at 80 years
"of age is to make new Watches more Timekeepers; & he is not
"only to make them, but to make more voyages to the Indies
"to try them. Good God! Sir, can this be a British House of Com-
"-mons? This most ingenious & able mechanic, who has spent
"above 40 years of an industrious & valuable life in search
"of this great discovery — & has discovered it; who has, accord
"-ing to the verdict of the whole mechanical world world, done
"more than ever was expected — & even gone beyond the line
"drawn by that act of Parliament, in consequence of which
"he undertook the work — This man is now, at the age of four
"-score, to have his legal right withheld from him, by adhering
"to an Act which stands between him & his reward. This in-
"-stance will be a fresh one, Sir, added to the long & black
"catalogue of genius & parts, [redacted] being perverted through long courses of
"lives in the service of the public, & ending in poverty and
"misery, — monuments of the base ingratitude of mankind!

would be much prejudiced if they could never escape. Such Deductions nevertheless were fitter to be referred to the philosophy of mind than to be objected at his Lordships Table, filled with proficients in the jargon of the Chase ___ by no means conspicuous for the feast of reason, but often for the flow of soul; to cover the concomitant offences of which, our Nimrod incurred the detestation of all lovers admirers of ___

Those polish'd arts that humanize mankind,
Soften the rude, & calm the savage mind;

by parting with the noble collection at Houghton to the Empress Catherine. ___ If we except the corked hat and starched ruffles in which he followed the hounds, this Nobleman is remembered only by a prodigality without refinement ___ a discreditable moniter to any person who desires to be thought of some value to himself or the community.

-sary to be willing & speedily

Let any one who holds a pen is at liberty to assume the wishing cap of Fortunatus whenever it is most convenient, we find ourselves, in the Forum of ancient Rome the City of the Seven Hills; where the learned Antiquarian endeavoured in vain to engage the attention of the Duke of Gordon on those subjects, connected with the religion which he mistakenly imagined it was the object & special

Morton's Act

"It is a case, Sir, that will admit of no delay; form is to
"come in between such a man & his reward; we are to
"have papers called for with all the loss of time after
"and thereon, before the inventor of this noble Dis-
"-covery is to have his just rights. Is this a conduct
"worthy of the munificence of this House? of a nation
"that owes to her navigation, her wealth, her consequen-
"her fame! 41 532

"Lord North rose in explanation, & in a candid
"manner professed himself much inclined to do justice
"to Mr. Harrison. He said the papers might be had in
"twenty four hours; & exculpated himself from designed de-
"signed delays."

"Mr. Burke answered, that nothing could be further
"from his idea than to be so ill a friend to Mr. Harrison's
"cause, as to irritate the Noble Lord; that he meant no such
"thing, & assured the House, that he wished only to induce the Treas
to do the old man justice."

The Debate concludes with the proceedings of the Board of Longitude being ordered to be laid before the House. — Also an extract of a letter from Captain Pocock to the Comptroller of the Navy; giving a favourable account of Mr. Kendal's copy of the successful Timekeeper. — The immediate purpose of John Harrison's friends, or of the royal party, as we may call it, was the repeal of Lord Morton's bill, which had proved equally injurious to the Claimant & to the public: but none of those who spoke, nor perhaps any person in the House, knew the disgraceful

Note at ◇ We have recently seen that Lord Sandwich, the Premier's colleague in the cabinet, opposed himself point blank to the King's view of the subject & to the zealous interest he took in it. — The why and the wherefore of so singular a circumstance is left to the future historian to explain, if competent. With the [illegible] of the Memoirs [illegible], it suffices to contribute these unquestionable facts.

culpable [illegible] neglect

at least

in the House

[illegible] observation glass, if

origin of that measure. Had Mr. Burke had leisure to trace it to the sparkle commission, & discovered that by the resolutions of the obtrusive & consequential character, who took every thing to himself on that occasion, an outlay of £ 500 might have been incurred, for which no funds were provided; & yet that the Board of Longitude never enquired into the truth of that noblemans statements; though it is pretended on the minutes, 9.th February 1765, that they "duly weighed & considered the same" his eloquence would have held up such gross incapacity, or such ~~pretended obstruction~~ to the contempt & odium it merited. — Lord North acts a neutral part fairly enough. He had either wasted time, or inclination, to notice the proceedings of the commission of Longitude; & William Harrison had not succeeded in drawing his attention to the subject, when he wrote to him by his Majesty's advice. Yet there was a course which might have enabled his lordship to come forward ~~at this point~~ with his mind not like a partical blank. He knew that the King had given much attention to this affair; & had he availed himself of those frequent opportunities for conversation which his official business threw in his way, he might (to use a metaphor) have borrowed his Master's ~~knowledge on the subject~~ he had lost his own. — The frivolity of the logic from the opposite side (that is the Treasury benches, where the strength of the enemy lay) it seems was such, that Mr. Burke scarcely preserves good manners in adverting to it; & declines to reply in detail to — what the reporters did not think of sup-

-strict importance
the King

throne

towards overcoming the difficulties with which the progress of
the cause through Parliament would be surrounded: for the com-
-missioners, instead of taking this opportunity to do away with
their recorded ~~opprobrium~~, on the 28th. of November preceding, ~~sounded~~
sounded the tocsin, & strained every nerve to oppose the Petitio-
-oners views: —— to defeat, to wit, the

for their purpose. He assumes, exactly as his [illegible] had done, that no man of common sense, if disinterested, could entertain a doubt on the question, yet probably he did not know fully the reasons on which George 3. had formed that conclusion

In the salutary forms of the constitution, though intended only to circumscribe bad, or weak princes, yet unavoidably also limit the sphere of action of the good; of whom the Author of Cato observes "it would be happy for their subjects, if they were absolute;" so is the interval from February to May, or, it is more likely, from Christmas to 5th July, this ornament to the [illegible] is seen addressing himself, every Tuesday, to all that minuteness of investigation, & operative advice, [illegible] this important & amiable purpose [illegible] Prince had embarked in, & was determined, from the first, to accomplish, if practicable; while he was restrained by those landmarks which long prescription had set out for the sovereign in all cases pending the decision of either house of Parliament; & still more coerced by certain reasons of propriety, the "chains invisible" which, by converting his requests into commands, preclude the head of the state from personal solicitation or interference, at times when it would not only be allowed, but commendable, in a subject, of whatever rank, to exert himself as to him seemed best.

The Applicant, as a part of his petition, after stating the success of his last made Timekeeper, which, in a trial of ten weeks, had erred only 4 miles instead of 30,

~~Lower~~ House ~~of Lords~~ indispensably

Distinguished Opponent,

for money advanced at ~~different periods~~ different periods many ~~years~~

thing; especially, & the consideration is of prime importance, that
the Petitioner had relinquished every other advantage in life,

which it was allowed by the Act, continues "that your
= Petitioner has laid undoubted evidence thereof before the
= Board of Longitude, & is ready to produce the
= same to this honourable House." — This "undoubted evidence"
was very uncommon — for it was that of "George 3.
of these United Kingdoms" who, had the forms of the
House so required, would have appeared at the Bar, un-
der an inferior title, & given his testimony in accordance
with the redress sought. — But this most
though successful in a considerable proportion, was not to
full extent of his purpose, £1250 being deducted
years before, to enable the
Petitioner to prosecute his experiments. £4309
[illegible] no proportion to the interest of the money detained withheld
if it be taken at no more than 3 per cent, the King considered the
Owners in reference to [illegible] distinct from the reward provided
for the successful candidate, while the 12 of Queen Anne,
which places £2,000 at the disposal of the Commissioners of Longi-
tude, to assist unforeseen ills, & for other purposes, as may pro-
perly included in the premiums specified for the different
degrees of accuracy that might be attained, to injury the had
afford by the from 533
unfair detention of his recompence, as his Majes
ty thought, in concurrence with men of the first rate talents,
without adverting to the decision of the long robe, will suffi-
ciently him to have any demonstrations, waived in the formal act
like this deduction of £1250,
[illegible] Constant which sentence, William Harrison, with
the Kings concurrence, if not at his suggestion, printed and

which his extraordinary abilities might have insured him, to solve the problem of the Longitude, by & with the encouragement of the Commissioners, the mathematical Commissioners, be it observed, till his ultimate success was highly probable.

took to be

(& who can doubt he knew them) should

we may assume, could not at that time

The fact incontrovertibly shows that the placability & candour of this considerate Prince

~~Fault for distribution in the power of Parliament, & resting~~
~~solely in the receipt Office, from the original inattention,~~
~~to that effect~~

The Debate on the grant not being to be procured, the ostensible causes of this partial failure do not appear, but the real circumstances, or what William Harrison, ~~[illegible]~~, so, are thus accounted for to his friend. After adverting to the weary struggle, but unexpected success of the contest, with such powerfull opponents, he proceeds. "Had "I been so happy as to have pushed matters, with my Lord "North, while Sir George Saville, & some more of my most "worthy friends were in town, I had ruined the whole, with- "-out any deduction, but out of politeness to Lord North, "his Lordship stung me out of £1250". — He means that the majority gave way so far to please the Minister. That the Premier, with a knowledge of his royal Master's sentiments on the subject ~~[illegible]~~ yet have suffered his satisfaction to be in any degree alloyed by this boons to the Treasury, is passing strange indeed! and, ~~[illegible]~~ have happened under ~~no~~ any other Government ~~[illegible]~~, bearing any resemblance to a monarchy.

~~[illegible]~~ allowed even those who might be concluded to be most subservient to what he had so much set his mind on, freely to differ in opinion with him, both by their words & actions, provided they were not open to reproach, like the party who refused the old man the loss of the sweep-

he had

elevated ground he occupied

Chap. 16. Chap.

-gish Timekeeper: & who damaged his machines, as if in childrens sport. — Another circumstance which highly de-
-serves attention, is that Sir George Saville, & some of those who divided with him, would directly have declined all pre-
-tensions to competition with John Harrison's superior Prize, had they understood the self denial to which [redacted] constrained himself, pending this business; particularly du-
-ring the Trial of the Watch, to which their own sacrifices bore no resemblance. They had attended in their places in the House, when this, as well [redacted] ordinary busines, was the or-
-der of the Day, but unluckily, by suffering country engage-
-ments, or amusements, to interfere with the probable sequel [redacted] of the discussions, the applicant was not so fully bene-
-fited as would have resulted, could his Majesty have im-
-parted a portion of his own arduous perseverance to the gentlemen, with whom he was perfectly agreed in opinion. For if it be allowed to judge of what we do not know by what we do, nothing but what was [redacted] physically in-
-surmountable [redacted] would have thwarted his digni-
-fied purpose; he would have rode from Lincoln, or from York, & in all weather too, if by that he could have restored the "father of modern Chronometry" to the [redacted] which he had [redacted] when the merits of the Timekeeper was universally admitted. [redacted] 64 C

16th Thus after having been piloted, to the best of the Author's endeavours, through a channel safe enough in his belief, as it exhibits proper marks & authentic bearings, the

as the proverbial rhyme has it,

Note

□ Sir N. W. Wraxall's Post Times.

more concerned
will, with

his head by the quarto □ catalogue
at this ornament to the House of Brunswic, which an action

reader is landed in the pleasant conclusion — that for the realizing £8,750 of this moiety in nubibus Lord Nar-vison was primarily indebted to a friend in need, who, ~~[illegible]~~ was "a friend indeed:" — for it is not often that men experience such beneficial services from their equals in private life, as are here recorded of the Sove-reign's disinterested friendship for a man of genius, whom he highly respected, & the hardship of whose case he com-miserated. Few persons even of the most exemplary character are found willing to incur so much inconvenience as must at times have resulted from the resolution the King took at Windsor, in the preceding year. But George 3. consorant to Lord North's averment on a quite different occasion, would "have lived on bread & water", had there been no other way to redeem his pledge: & many a poor fellow who has been buffeted in the world — whom fortune has dealt unkindly by; who is ~~[illegible]~~ with her frowns than her smiles, ~~[illegible]~~ a sigh, ~~[illegible]~~ acknowledge the value of such an active & consis-tent friend. To ☉ 3/12

That the unprincipled satirist, Wolcot, or Peter Pindar, should have got ~~[illegible]~~ scurrility so often lauded ~~[illegible]~~ so much to be admired, drifts unheeded "down the stream of time," is a caustic innuendo on those titled, or pri-vileged, functionaries of the

life of the King

dependant for our knowledge of them

as

fresh from the dock yard in Holland to the

anti-room

Court, whose discernment was unequal to the preservation of "a Fact" so novel in a monarch. The transactions at the Observatory, it may be said, were wholly connected with the private [redacted] & no more to be looked for from such a quarter than his experiments in agriculture, which, though not private, were happily not [redacted] on Rosicrucian, or Gibbonian; but when William Harrison saw his Majesty every Tuesday, either at St James's, or Buckingham House, it could not be far removed from the medial, or the intermediate observation of those lords, who, [redacted] has it Voltaire, are "powdered in the tip of the "mode, & know exactly at what hour the King "rises & goes to bed." Can we to suppose then, that the Sovereign, while assimilating his ideas with those of the discoverer of the Longitude, appeared to the knowing ones like Peter the great [redacted] courtiers of Lewis 14th & that the reply, were understood, when it was enquired in the [redacted], with whom is the King engaged? would be —

Lord Sir! a mere Mechanic, strangely vile & low.

Then with the easy transition of wit, "one asks

others, to whom the public features of the transactions with William Harrison it is

what news? and the contest suspects the rest.

[redacted]

—— he's told of some new plays;
New Punch's, Harlequin's & operas.

[redacted]

With reference to the direct object of the writer, how much it is to be regretted, that gentlemen of professed literary or scientific education, Fellows of the Royal Society & should, either out of regard for some friend or friends, connected with the Commission of

highly probable were well known, if the
private marks were not,

-plied: [redacted] fact in this case,

[redacted]

which characterizes it

of Paris — a man [or a woman, or a mental herma-
-phrodite] whose

Longitude, or benumbed by a torpedo caught near the Castle
of Indolence, have been entirely silent on a subject calculated
to excite the utmost deference in select men of imposing de-
nominations, congregated for such a purpose as denotes a Society
styled loyal, & which collectively appeals to the patronage so im-
[redacted] without having contributed [redacted] single
specimen. Who, instead of those indiscriminate professions which
princes are accustomed to receive (especially in France) has indulged
the opportunity being so handsome, that fearless laudatory spirit,
distinguished as such from the echo of official panegyric, because
the merit it informs us of is enhanced, instead of evaporating, by
any attempt to dwell on particulars, & detail in detail. It would
[redacted] have rendered null & void the obligation of secrecy to proceed-
ings in those addresses which neither the above Society, nor any
other, patronized by George 3. would probably have withheld, had some
new privilege been conferred on its corporation. The difference scarcely
needs to be pointed out, between those eulogies for what may be effected
by a stroke of the pen, & those which, as in the present instance, were
indeed amply merited [redacted] by a conduct the singular perse-
verance of which seems more characteristic of the professors chair
than of the divan: while the command of temper
far exceeds what experience commonly leads us [redacted] either among philo-
sophical recluses, or men of the world. Either, not the least con-
sideration, for it bespeaks uncommon attention, is the manifest
contradiction here found to the [redacted] rancorous assumptions
[redacted] malevolent passions en-
tered in self, notwithstanding his stormy protestations to the amor

snorted through his pasteboard gnomon, or "grinned "horrible a ghastly smile," but sucked down with affright, if in danger of being discovered; which he declared he could not survive three days. &

Note at & The consciousness of his ignominous ingratitude, if detected, probably led to this extraordinary declaration.

-gress cases, that Moses brought from the fair, &

ladder to preferment, or dreamed of kissing hands, [illegible]

white stone (if they were desirous by cognizant

for

patrica. Such unfounded personalities lead only to the conviction, that he never desired to meet with attributes in his Sovereign directly the reverse of those his effrontery hurled at the throne, from behind the dead wall, where he [illegible] — Let us hear him. "Accustomed to the "language of courtiers, you measure their affections by the ve- "hemence of their expressions, & when they only praise you "indirectly, you admire their sincerity." — The party spirit of this writer may be resembled to that of Bellarmine, though it is not easy to say which was the most intolerant in his way. If his sentiments of George 3d. are estimated by the tangible mate- rials with which the public are furnished herewith, they are of no more value than "the grops of spectacles, with copper rims & sha- "[illegible]," at which Mr. Primrose exclaimed, as we do, "a man "ought to have such trumpery." The case brought forward in these Memoirs undoubtedly offered as fine a field for operations as an accomplished courtier could desire, "who trusted to the "vehemence of his expressions to convince the monarch of his sincer- "ity." It was susceptible of being magnified into something super human, by some skilful adulatory adept, who would have been wrapt into the third heaven, if his feathered unction had grim- -ed the royal ear; but who they were that mounted by this [illegible] or were enabled to mark one day with a [illegible] could be known only to that sage Enchanter Merlin, "who knew a point more than the Devil himself" or — to Junius, who knew better still. Neither could indirect praises pass Turkish encomiums with our Sovereign, for both the one & the

++ the name given by the shipwrecked sailors of the Antelope packet to a marmalade or sweetmeat esteemed by the Pelew Islands: & with which they were presented.

○ the quotation to be detached as a verse, in printing

by the heir apparent next to the crown ◇ reached posterity. have

note at ◇ The following passage in the "Diary of a Lover of Literature / Thomas Green esquire of) which the Author had not seen when he wrote; is too much in accordance with this melancholy neglect. — "The education "of the Prince appears to have been a wretched one. Shut "up from all liberal acquaintance & liberal knowledge, "his Mother represents him as shy, backward, good-natured, "cheerful, but with a serious cast of mind; not quick, but "to those whom he knew, intelligent." Had not the native vigor of his intellect shaken off this drag-chain, such an education was adapted to produce at most nothing better than the "leather & prunella" of Lewis 13th.

-signed to the sable bier

other were a losing speculation; to W & Son and these, it is to be lamented that the contrary evil resulted — that neither the disciples, nor the non-conformists, of this anonymous chouk-Dog have preserved an item of the present case; & the Author has waited in vain, while "Year chases year, decay pursues decay," for some disclosure from the self edited, or the posthumous memoranda, of the one, or the other, noble lord, or distinguished commoner, honoured with some office near his Majesty's person, or frequently in his way at the period in reference (which approximates with the chronology of Junius) The visits of the Princess Dowager of Wales to fortune-tellers, attended [illegible], with other matters, scarcely of more importance than the diurnal record of the learned Elias Ashmole, that he fell on one day, that he scratched his posteriors too closely, on another, that his maid took physic! but the manhood of Prince George (who afterwards reigned near sixty years) wanted a Pocket, or some more visible familiar to make us better acquainted with his virtues: — a consideration which, after the Author had more than once offered the official & private papers connected with the subject to Gentlemen of far superior attainments, but found the proposal declined with more politeness than prudence, rendered it imperative on him to resort to the pen, & the imprimatur, before his recollections should be consigned to oblivion along with himself.

A review of these pages predisposed the writer to consider much in favour of that nobleman, of blasted political notoriety, who had the superintendency of this

Note at △ Sir Nathaniel W. Wraxall's Memoirs of his own Times.

Note at ∅ Edward III may be quoted here; his character rose so much superior to what might have been expected from the influence of Queen Isabelle & Roger Mortimer.

[Look below]
or was ~~no-ways~~ prepossessing. ○ ~~[illegible]~~

prompt & energetic cast of mind, this Monarch aids, & of the sentiments

◇ Note at In his Texts

but with that character ~~[illegible]~~

Note at ○ The Author has somewhere read — it might be resembled to that of Philip 2d. when resident in this country.

was fortunate in his Sully ~~[illegible]~~;

since that commented or otherwise by M.r Croker; & we should ~~[illegible]~~ covet

Note
□ Laborious idleness their time employs.

Spectator.

Prince's education in his adolescency; but he is not aware of any conclusive evidence corroborating with the conjecture; & an authority to which he defers, has viewed the combination between Anne of Austria & Cardinal Mazarine, who kept Louis 14. in an ignorance subservient to their own ambitious views, to apply it to a similar attempt at engrossing power between the Princess Dowager & the Earl of Bute. But whatever were the defects in the course of instruction, or the discouragements to application, or the bias given to the royal pupil, they neither produced an impression of no decided features, nor a counterpart of the Duke himself, whose demeanor [illegible]. Like most men of a [illegible] formed his own character, independent of adventitious circumstances of those about him. And if the case of John Harrison, in which he voluntarily engaged, & followed up with determination, the execution which the impossibility of coming forward in the regal line imposed on him, may be considered as a fair specimen of the fruit "the tree should be known by" who is there of whatever party, the republican excepted, but will regret that the returns of revolving seasons, from the same stem, like those of the productive plant in the wilderness, "were wasted on the desert air". — That true knight-errant, as Mackintosh calls Henry 4. of France, England the splendid talents of Dr. Johnson, were followed through their minor ramifications by a Boswell; [illegible] the sayings & doings of the conqueror at Waterloo, when the baton & gorget are laid aside; for this is as it should be, but it cannot be too much regretted that the busy idleness of

of the Walpole school / whose reveries, whatever importance might attach to them in their day, ~~[illegible]~~ & before the French revolution ~~[illegible]~~ gave ~~[illegible]~~ those affairs a kick head over heels, we are now in danger

with some few

Difficulties that concern only the metaphysician ~~[illegible]~~

reign

no retainer, of whatever rank,
~~[illegible]~~ about the court ~~[illegible]~~ of sufficient abilities & sagacity to

Prince Frederic's castle building court should have been dis-
-ly registered by a consummate politician [illegible] of falling asleep over / while the meritorious Grandson of
[illegible] George 2d [illegible] has the vault closed over him,
without either the courtier, or the man of business, the philoso-
-pher, or any of the contemporary literati, having favoured us
with particulars of a case of which none could have pro-
-ved the counterpart in a crowned head — a fruit which not
only vindicated that love of justice befitting his exalted station, but
proves a cultivated intellect in this Prince not engaged on
[illegible], but curious on a question of vital impor-
-tance, as connected with that art preeminently conduc-
-ive to the prosperity of his subjects. — His public life has
been duly recorded by political communicants of various creed,
but his private worth / that in which he must have desired to
[illegible] in the hearts of his people / though attempted by literary artists
of skill & industry, it may now be seen is much injured by the
loss of those materials which there was no [illegible]
preserve; & these our knowledge of Georg 3., on points of the
most lively interest, is proportionably defective.

The accomplished Fenelon in his description of Elysium
& Tartarus, as Addison observes, lays a stress on the misery
of bad, & the happiness of good kings, because his work was de-
-signed principally for the instruction of his royal pupil; —
a purpose which, under a parity of circumstances, will be sup-
-posed to be the object of the present writer, if any distinguished
preceptor honours him by taking the same view of [illegible],

forward. For although

[redacted] cannot [redacted] of persons concerned

be expected to excite the same interest,

notwithstanding

[redacted] unknown to fame [redacted] cuts

In proportion as a plain & substantial matter of fact may be conceived to convey a moral lesson better than the best romance, from Crusoe to the Waverley's the Author would persuade himself he [redacted] has stepped on high ground [redacted] is an abstract view, & exclusive of his mode of dealing with the subject, on which it behoves him to observe a decorous silence. Like the mythological novel of Telemachus, his production is [redacted] primarily addressed to those persons usually distinguished rank & [redacted] for superiors for their learning, who are "moulding the pliable" are engaged in [redacted] thought of some illustrious pupil, & "teaching the young idea how "to shoot" — when the mark, as may happen, is identified with the welfare & needs of the population of some extended empire. But as those destined to wear the diadem & their heirs, apparent or presumptive, with the branches of their House inclusively, constitute but a very small ++

that portion of the work in which George the good is brought
the history of the transactions which led to the royal
interference" was thought indispensably necessary in the
way of explanation, [illegible]
[illegible] the extraordinary figure which a nobleman
in the bustle of the scenery. [illegible]
[illegible] proportion
of mankind, & as the details given are illustrative in no ordinary
degree of a perseverance & humanity, seldom supported
with such consistency in private life; they become an example
of virtuous self denial, which all gradations in society,
but especially the middle & higher ranks, may profit by reflect-
-ing on; & adorn to practice, each according to his ability. If
the various casualties in life should place oppressed genius of
either sex, within the reach of his sustaining hand, let him
carry the ever honoured merits of George 3d. as an amulet, worn
in imagination, to refresh & stimulate him to a conduct above
all praise in this state of being, & an accredited passport to the
mansions of the blessed.

George 3d. King of these [illegible] Sister Islands,
& their extensive dependencies, differed as much from the common stand-
-ard of men destined by birth to such paramount rank as
history tells us "good Aurelius", or Trajan, did from most of
those that assumed the purple in "imperial Rome". It

these United Kingdoms [redacted]

which was framed under the all-seeing eye of [redacted]

Insert at □ Old England — Scotland & Ireland in Assembly.

Noted O — his last breath in Saint Luzza's

Burns.

was not in arms alone, nor yet in the sciences, that [redacted] vindicated their superiority, when, by universal ad
mission, = we were the only people that never submitted to the
= laws of the Conqueror, but by steadiness & perseverance, fi-
-nally overcame him. 4th Δ #160 This cogent [redacted] acknowledg-
ment sufficed not (the Author would show) to make the name
of an Englishman a passport to respect: for ever a King, born &
bred among us, a genuine British King, has some impressive
features in his mental portrait, for which the resemblance
may be sought in vain throughout the volume of Clio (where the
Author hopes he is procuring their insertion, in indelible characters,
in the same page where we read that) the merit of this Monarch
was fostered, & his energies called into action, by the peculiar con
stitution — the unparalleled form of Government that obtains
here, & here alone; by his efforts (& those of his Successor) for
the protection of his Dominions, & of Europe, [redacted]
Providence by the valour & skill [redacted] of his commanders
both by sea & land, [redacted] raised the House of Brunswick to a dis
tinction never surpassed by the most celebrated Dynasties in
modern history, or [redacted] referring to antecedent ages; equally
founded as it is on the arts of peace, & the ability to repel ag
gression — exciting the "faint huzza" of many a dying Hero
under or Waterloo's everlasting field, & — the ardent pray
ers of every well wisher to [redacted], who, in mental per
spective, would hail its limited but illustrious Monarchy
transmitted through [redacted] revolving & remote
periods of the allegorical Traveller [redacted]

purpose of his Grace to direct at the fountain
head; or what business had he at Rome. Thought the
good Abbe, whether it did not appear his
physician had sent him. The difficulty however is
soon solved set aside, for the noble Traveller of not
overruled by an superior ster, which was more than
probable might have closed with a Bond Street
lounger, of whom we have a despising account from Dr.
Moore. He had visited the antient Metropolis of Europe
like shoals of our countrymen, without either a knowledge
of antiquities, or taste for the fine arts; nor was he
much better acquainted with Roman story than the volume
of nature. Being disturbed by the latter informed part
of his acquaintance adverting to some subject of cu-
riosity they had visited, he one day, having previously
settled his route, set off early to scamper through the
City & environs, noting with a few posthooks or hieroglyph
such particulars as he had procured a list of from a
professional Cicerone — after This sport (somewhat
analogous to a steeple chase) he was enabled to interrupt
any posthumous account with the concise exhilarating
that he had seen it.

Note This oneness of mind & constancy of purpose
often called the English malady, which appears so many
aristocrats of impossibility to be regarded by men
of reflection with no more respect than the monkey who

for ever projecting with a scythe & hourglass.

Appendix

Insert at ‡ (the King's astronomer at Richmond.)

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1 Remarks on a Pamphlet published under the Authority of the Board of Longitude ——— ℔ 372

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3 Voyage in the Deptford man of war, from Madeira to Jamaica — accuracy of the Timekeeper; & the return in the Medea with a very tempestous passage in the Merlin sloop 571

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10 Observations on the injurious & otherwise effects of claim under the Copyright Act from Clerical Colleges or Libraries. — 629

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turn over

2 2 1 N
8 a Note on Jurius & Calcot — — £ 503

Dedication

To the right honourable Thomas, Baron Erskine.

My Lord

In resorting to the sanction of your Lordships patronage for the following inadequate attempt to bring the British public more intimately acquainted with the private character of a Sovereign whose memory the united voice of all ranks in society concurs to revere, it is no object to direct general attention to your Lordships eminent talents, or your arduous exertion of them in the cause of that rational freedom of the subject which is conceived to obtain solely in this favoured country; such superfluous information would scarcely be tolerated by any class of habitual readers in these kingdoms except but young gentlemen not yet released from Eton (or St. Andrews.) The purpose yet, my Lord, no way precludes the Author from recalling to the recollection of those who descant on the vicissitudes of genius, the surprising disparity between your Lordships outset in public life, & the high honours that preceded the well earned comparative repose your Lordship has attained, & which it is his prayer you may continue to enjoy, with the blessing of longevity. The mention of a person whose name frequently occurs in the ensuing Memoirs, & for whom your Lordship entertained habits of kindness & social re-

a work of supererogation to

-gard during his lengthened life, cannot fail to impress on your recollection that period when the future Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain might have been identified in the junior Midshipman of a fifty gun ship. The remarkable association of such dissimilar ideas blended in the mental grasp of the same individual, is peculiar to your Lordship's career; other eminent men have risen to the first distinction in the profession of their choice, but your Lordship's case equally entertains & instructs us by the accomodation of your early steps to a sequel at once so laudable, & yet so discordant, that the Hawk-eyed Muse to the antipodes involuntarily averts at the mention of it. In the young Midshipman we anticipate a future admiral, decorated with the tokens of his skill & valour; but who, unless gifted with the faculty of second sight, attributed to some of your Lordship's countrymen, could have shown him coming forward with the great seal of England? Your professional ascendancy, my Lord, has moreover rendered dubious the relevancy of a certain disqualification in your northern Kingdom, by virtue of which the younger aspiring younger sons of any nobleman the form of whose coronet denotes a gradation higher in the peerage than that of your honoured family, are understood to be precluded from an advantage which Lord Erskine has so happily illustrated.

It may be thought [redacted]

the Author of Armata on the cultivated taste with which

he embellishes the <u>Otium cum Dignitate</u>, but in the latter, as in the earlier part of your active life, your Lordship surprises, as well as informs us, by the contrast of your pursuits — the singular range of intellect, & amalgamation of extremes; for though Cowper scorns a brilliant exception, Neptune's boisterous element is scarcely more opposed to "Coke upon Littleton," Saltkeld's reports, or the Statutes at large — than is the Inner Temple, to wit, than are the Muses' sequestered haunts overhanging Helicon's purling rills."

There is another topic, which whoever has appreciated your Lordship's destiny must be familiar with, equally connected as it is with your Parliamentary duty functions, & indicative of your private worth. — It was reserved for Lord Erskine to vindicate human nature, & more particularly the high character of our country, too often dishonoured by the cruelties exercised on passive subjects of the brute creation, in our streets, & on our highways; those animals subdued to the will, & also to the capricious tyranny of half civilized beings / with reluctance we call them men / who being restrained by the strong arm of the law from venting their rage on such of their own species as offend them, can yet indulge the malignity of their nature, & ruthless thirst of blood, on their dependants of this description; while the spiritual pastor calls their attention in vain to the sacred volume from which he repeats that, "The righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." — This long & "sore evil under "the sun" your Lordship with an humanity that tells us "the "milk of human kindness warmed your heart," addressed yourself

to counteract by legislative coercion, in the hope that fine & imprisonment ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ would effect what the arguments of the divine & the moralist had failed in. If your Lordship's ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ praise-worthy & patriotic endeavours lacked support, yet they were not unprofitable in the estimation of that omnipotent Being without whose glance "a sparrow falls not to the ground". — This amiable trait in the biography of Lord Erskine apositively occurred — was "brought home to the business" of the writer, by the sensibility it upholds according with the distinguished sentiment of George 3. in the case. And notwithstanding his subject is not connected with field sports, he conceives it appropriate to remind your Lordship of Somerville's apostrophe to this Prince's Grandfather contemplating an exhausted stag driven to his last harbour.

" Beneath a weight of woe he seems distress'd,
" The tears run trickling down his hairy cheeks:
" He weeps, nor weeps in vain. The King beholds
" His wretched plight, & tenderness innate
" Moves his great soul. Soon at his high command
" Muzzled, the disappointed hungry pack
" Retire submiss, and, grumbling quit their prey.
" Great Prince! from thee what may thy subjects hope,
" So kind & so munificent to brutes!
" O mercy, heav'nly born! sweet attribute!
" Thou great, thou best, prerogative of pow'r!
" Justice may guard the throne, but join'd with thee
" On rocks of adamant it stands secure, —

The successor of George 2. in the true spirit of Sir Ro-

-per de Courtesy (very unlike the mob of sportsmen) could not find
-is heart to destroy an animal that had given him so much gra-
-tification." & the usual sequel of the royal hunt is thus de-
-scribed by a Gentleman who had attended it twenty five years.

"During the operation of securing the capture, his Ma-
-jesty comes up, & never fails to bestow the greatest encomiums
on those who have so earnestly exerted themselves for the safety
& preservation of the deer"

But waiving this involuntary theme, your Lordship's intercourse with your old Shipmate, to whose veracity you can bear the fullest testimony, must have left you no stranger in substance, though the details may be imperfect, respecting this interesting Trait herewith described; romantic it might with some propriety be called; for where, my Lord, does the volume exist to which the enquirer can be referred for a precedent among "thrones, principalities & powers"? It is beyond the scope of ordinary home-pursuits, & many years de-
-sultory reading, to have heard of it. From which dynasty either of this or other kingdoms, famed in history, will the learned in regal biography exhibit the prototype of so insu-
-lated a Transaction? Which yet, & surely, my Lord, it is surprising strange in this book-making age, it was left to the applicant for your Lordship's patronage to supply a par-
-tial knowledge of. Will it not be conceded that the renowned Bayard was not more an example of the chivalrous attributes, humanity, courtesy, vigilance & self denial, that was George 3: who within, inside the whimsical Frivolancies of that system,

2293
2296

practically illustrated the virtues it fostered. A perusal of these Memoirs the Author cannot but feel assured will convince your Lordship, that notwithstanding whatever has been written on the private character of this [illegible] of conspiracy Prince, who claimed to be a Briton born & bred, the [illegible] public are still very imperfectly acquainted with his merit.

Anticipating therefore, though with the greatest deference, your Lordship's participation in the Author's purpose — to rescue from oblivion a Trait calculated to enhance fourfold our veneration for a Monarch, who, as Circ-
-ero left the integrity of his Sicilian Proconsulship a pattern for all his successors, will be assigned by posterity a pro-
-minent pedestal in the Temple of Honour, the Author is, my Lord, with the respectful, but free homage due to your rank in the state, & your superior talents

your Lordship's devoted servant

Johan Herrins.

Preface

In the biography of John Harrison, the celebrated mechanician, which is given in all the modern Cyclopædia's, those writers fullest in their remarks are unanimous in the assertion, that his final success in recovering the second half of the reward for the discovery of the longitude was owing to his indefatigable perseverance. They had no idea that this could be a misstatement — that his despair of succeeding was such, that he could not have been induced to the necessary exertions to achieve that object, had it not been for the perseverance of — of his Sovereign, in supporting & encouraging his desponding faculties. Yet that a timekeeper was tried ten weeks at his Majesty's private observatory, That its error was only so many seconds, is the concise account in which his name is both introduced & dropped — a notice as brief as might be applied to some subordinate character on Drury's boards, & implying, without any disrespect to the royal supervision, that the trouble incurred was to be supposed equivalent to such ordinary services as are expected from those actors for whom substitutes are easily found. — A few years ago the discovery of some private letters preserved in a family the candidate's son was connected with by marriage, furnished ample proof of the humane consideration & active zeal the King had shown in the case of John Harrison. From whence it could not but be concluded that the circulation of particulars of such uncommon interest would be the general cast, & the wonder re-echoed, how this Prince had

2

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inclusively

never had justice done to his merit — in a country, where reading, writing & printing, occupies much of the time of individuals in each class above the vulgar; & where bulky pamphlets & double volumed octavos of special note, according to the report of the publishers, furnish information quantum sufficit, & delectable items concerning persons, of whom, with the exception of a few speculative men in religion, philosophy, or politics, it might be supposed no one desires to know any thing of.

The causes of the singular contradiction which the fact brought forward opposes to the prevailing idea that which makes curiosity always on the alert after the opinions & the conduct of every powerful monarch, are beyond the Author's research to point out, & not being necessarily within his province, are left to the readers conjecture. Sylvanus Urban will readily acknowledge that many a column of his centesimal miscellany has been allotted to matter of much less importance to historical biography; & it may well excite the surprise of other periodical conductors, that it should have escaped all the contemporary journalists; for was such an anecdote related of Charles 1st. for example, or William 3d. would it not be upheld, as of sterling value towards illustrating their private virtues & cultivated cast of mind?

For "the history of the transactions which led to the royal interference," the Author is principally indebted to a curious manuscript Journal; which, after the

death of William Harrison, whose longevity exceeded that of his father, was discovered among some a few scientific books in a closet, where it had lain undisturbed above half a century, & was not known to be in existence. It extends over-pris 113 folio pages — after goes into detail where the minutes of the Board of Longitude supply only a meagre outline of the business before them, &, which is more important, makes us acquainted with particulars altogether new, & which the pre-dominant party at the Board never designed should meet the public eye. As it is very unusual for persons situated in life as the father & son then were to be at so much trouble of this kind, it will be inferred they had an important reason for such a pro-cedure, which is found to be this. For many years the inter-course between the Commissioners & the Candidate was confined to the advances of money rendered necessary by his experiments, & by his having relinquished every other pursuit. These were conceded without difficulty to the testimonials he brought from scientific men of the first distinction; but when his la-bours promised to attain the desired result, such unequivocal symptoms of jealousy were noticed among the University gentlemen at seeing the mechanic carry off all the honour & emolument of the discovery to the prejudice of men of science, as induced the father & son to believe that whatever might be the merits of the invention, pretexts would never be wanting to procras-tinate the payment of the reward. For the satisfaction of the friends of the family therefore, & that their descendants might know, if they failed, what were the real causes of the disap-

II IV

portment, this course was adopted. Which — at this late day, enables the present writer to trace the parties responsible for the disgraceful oppression to which the Candidate was exposed, & which finally led to the interference of "Georye 3. of "these United Kingdoms;" &, — ~~as~~ without the smallest foresight of the compilers, their journal becomes, near fifty years after, the substratum of this short attempt "to sound "the praise of merit, ere it dies."

Though it is nothing new in committees, or corporations, like that of the commission of longitude, for power to converge from the many to the few till it centers in an individual; yet the action alluded to presupposes uncommon talents or a superior address in the leader of the band. This was not the case with the Cromwell who took possession of the Board; who seems to have been remarkable for his effrontery only, though he did not put the key in his pocket. It is seldom indeed that those attributes are caricatured so unworthily as in the domineering pretensions of James Douglas, Earl of Morton, now known possibly by having been President of the Royal Society a few seasons; in which capacity being a commissioner of longitude, it is discovered by the Journal, that for the greater part of the troubles which John Harrison our mechanician had to toil through after having conformed to the 12th of Queen Anne, according to the construction which the Commissioners themselves had invariably put on the Act, arose from the gross misrepresentations, the overbearing pertinacity, & the incompetence of this nobleman to decide questions which served

V

him for a field

be on a par with

to this important

[illegible] to display on with a self sufficiency commoner in France than either North or South Britain: he even affected to rival the candidate for [illegible] some of his discoveries in mechanics. — Exclusive of this northern Pair, the Journal brings us acquainted with some other curiosities [illegible] — in the costume of learned Professors from Cam & Isis whose proficiency does not seem to have been above par in the science on their [illegible] accredited [illegible] accomplishments in which they had been nominated [illegible] commission. Two of these sawans in objecting to the observations taken after the return from Jamaica, it appears, did not know the proper use of one of the commonest instruments in the hands of astronomers. So that had D. Knox seen the manuscript, it is likely he would have quoted from it in support of the overcharged description he was supposed to have given of our Universities, in his day: what then would he have said, had he surmised the jealousy of these gifted men, which actually gave occasion for two mechanics to devote appropriate such a portion of time & trouble to record their transactions with [illegible] successive Boards of Longitude.

The student in his closet, & the student of the world may both profit by scenes in which common place, conceited men, disregarding their inferiors, nor reflecting that the want of education is sometimes compensated by native intellect, were not more circumspect than in presence of their own domestics. Public characters, who value their reputation, [illegible] are thus [illegible] apprized through what unsuspected channels they are liable to commit themselves with to posterity in no

VI

good repute — That closed doors do not avail to prevent a closer observation than they desired — that their sins of omission, in this instance, as well as the evils they inflicted, often from personal motives, on a man of [illegible] genius, whose name did honour to his country, & to the age in which he flourished, start at length into broad day, but it is under a lowering sky.

The injurious effects of an erratum in the original act of Parliament are frequently conspicuous. The framers of the 12.th of Queen Anne never contemplated the anomaly of one set of interested, or of honorary candidates for the same distinction being judges of the merits of another class, more likely in the opinion of Sir Isaac Newton to achieve the desired discovery. Yet experience showed that learned gownsmen, actually habited moreover, were no more to be considered as exempt from inflated symptoms of the 'esprit du corps' than Squire Western would have been, relatively speaking, if he had found an unlicensed marksman trespassing on his estate. The unwise liberality of Government which allowed the Professors £15 per diem for each Board of Longitude they attended augmented this evil considerably; for a persuasion being induced that the reward once paid, their services would be dispensed with, it could not be disputed, consistently with human infirmity, that they would willingly relinquish so legible a mode of visiting their friends in London — of perambulating the repositories of science; seeing Garrick, &c. If this inherent defect in the constitution of the Board is viewed in connexion with the non payment of withholding the reward after the

scrupulously

A complaint which may surprise those who are apt to observe the multiplied precautions on the bench, if not to exclude, yet to hear with proportionate doubts the evidence of any witness having an interest directly, or indirectly, in the matter at issue. Not only so, it is necessary he should not appear to be influenced by personal resentment, or by any unreasonable prejudice against the opposed party; for the judge will point it out in his charge, with suitable comments. Yet considerations of this kind although otherwise in universal acceptation, were never regarded at by the Commission of Longitude; where it often happened that one

Trial to Jamaica had proved the extraordinary correct-
-ness of the Timekeeper, can it be said the coincidence
was accidental? Does a fair & manly conduct shrink from
enquiry? And yet it is certain the Candidate, on that occasion,
was refused all knowledge of the foundation of so severe a
disappointment (unless except he could catch it by leger-
demain) — a refusal diametrically opposed to the practice
of any other Tribunal, except that of the Star Chamber. — As
if these disadvantages were not serious enough, none of the
Jury could be challenged, if they were notoriously at personal
variance with the Candidate; & and it is to the discredit of the
parties in reference, that they had more of them the delicacy to
absent themselves for such a reason of impropriety. So palpably was this
incongruity ~~[illegible]~~, that John Harrison was borne out, when he is
found complaining that "this was the only court in which a man
"sat in judgment on his own cause!" ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ directed the whole proceedings, for the time being: an observation
which particularly applies to Lord Morton & Dr Maskelyne.

The Journal spoken of, ~~[illegible]~~ so remarkable for illus-
-trating ~~[illegible]~~ an old truism, the danger of entrusting any set (& ~~[illegible]~~
of all an interested set) of men with arbitrary power; is not in
the handwriting of either the father, or the son, except a few verbal
corrections by the junior Harrison; but, from circumstances, the
Author concludes the fair copy to have been written out from
the rough one or from notes (afterwards thrown away) by Walter Wil-
-liams, an Attorney, a particular friend of William Harrison, who

or more individuals well known to be hostile to the Candi-
-date, or whatever grounds,

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seems fitly borne out by the predictions of these sayers for their
craft; for,

afterwards became secretary to the Apothecaries' Company, &, as such, had apartments at their hall, in Blackfriars. — With reference to the longitude, & the transactions emanating from his enterprize for the discovery of it, this private record was to John Harrison what the diary of Lord Malmesbury Regis, & the Earl of Waldegrave, were to those statesmen, in the "double, "double, toil & trouble," of the political cauldron. But, as the Author of "Pursuits of Literature" has it, in speaking of Sheridan, "politics are transient, wit is eternal;" — an observation which equally, if not with more point, applies to distinguished improvements in any art or science essential to civilized man, like those introduced by "the father of modern chronometry" is that "the "force of nature" led him to cultivate.

The [redacted] common illustration of a town about to be besieged, & the mason, the carpenter & the currier, each proposing the material he was conversant with to fortify it, [redacted] with the exception of D^r. Halley, who, on the contrary, is found complaining heavily of the difficulties & uncertainty attending them, a preference of Lunar observations above all the any expedients by mechanism that ever were or will be invented to determine the Longitude seemed to devolve like a heir-loom, or like the Prophet's mantle on the successive owners of Flamstead Hills; with whom the University Gentlemen coalesced of course; but the Mechanics were not represented at the Board, & to this radical defect, which the legislature never contemplated, much of the discrepancy that followed may be

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ascribed. For the Naval Officers, & the Civilians, deferring to the scientific designations of their colleagues, were always a counterpoise to the influence of these gownsmen; unless on one occasion, which, though of a subsequent date to the exter-
-tion of John Harrison, is too remarkable to be omitted. —
M. Thomas Mudge had it from Sir John Pringle, then President of the Royal Society, that when the Act, the 14th George 3. was fram-
-ed, the Professors were for excluding the Mechanics altogether from the rewards provided by it, but the rest of the Commissioners thought this so unreasonable, they would not consent to it. — In coincidence with this proud spirit towards their opponents, the senior Arnold, on seeing the structures on the examination of two Timekeepers by Mudge at Greenwich, came forward, & offered to make oath that Dr. Shepherd had told him in presence of his wife "it never was in-
-tended that Timekeepers should get the reward." — An avowal thus characterized by an equal measure of frankness & assur-
-ance seems to set may be thought to set the question at rest. — Yet this conclusive admission can be dispensed with. For though the other Gentlemen at the Board refused to call Mudge with men of skill so conscientiously learned, yet they suffered the Lunar demonstrators (whom Newton would have sent to Coventry instanter) to reach their object by a course a little circuitous, but not the less unerringly adapted to throw cold water on the future hopes & aspirations of their opponents as was the mandate of the Caliph at Alexandria to extinguish whatever knowledge was not sanctioned by the Koran. — The trials pre-
-scribed for two Timekeepers, both required to succeed, being

so lengthened & expensive, as to be incompatible with the casual-ties incident to all human schemes: especially in sea affairs. — All therefore did D. Maskelyne exult with the bravado "They had given the mechanics a bone to pick, which "would crack their teeth." — A boast, after which (unless he really deceived himself) the duplicity betrayed, when he regrets the trouble with his successor would be saddled with, cannot be too much despised. — Besides thus sounding the tocsin of woe, & emptying the phial of their wrath on the mechanics, thus consigned to the labour of Sisyphus, if they relished it, the Lunar commanders had concerted a manœuvre less obvious, but not less certain in its discouraging effects; which they may have the credit of having taken the hint of from the scorpions with which Archimedes wounded the Romans: which were not perceived but on a near approach. Previous to this period all questions at the Board were decided by a majority, which however as the Admirals & others condescended to be men of straw in presence of the owners personified by the deputies from Lam & Sis were little more than nominal. But the refractory spirit recently evinced, that is, that is their refusal to sanction the interdict on mechanics without reserve, it is highly probable gave occasion for two thirds being now constituted a necessary majority. The consequence of which, as M. Mudge justly observed, would be "that if they mustered their forces "they could at any time prevent the rest of the Commissioners from carrying whatever measure conceded not with "their views." — Never were public motives more degradingly subservient to private animosity & party revenge. In five days

of the strictures on the examination of the unsuccessful Timekeep-
-er at Hampstead Hills, which D^r. Maskelyne with the his assu-
-riates from Oxford & Cambridge had been unable to reply to,
may give some idea of the source of this extreme acrimony
& rankling soreness towards their rivals: the provocation
being heightened moreover by the gall & wormwood infused in
it, when John Harrison, with the assistance & encouragement
of a friend ~~is said~~ generous & humane (of which hereafter) was enabled to recover
the second moiety of the ~~Last~~ original Parliamentary reward,
while the Lunar craftsmen were dividing the bears-skin before
it was caught.

298 Insert at Page 175 △ If they thought they conformed to the letter of their Commission, yet they might have seen, if they would, that they were directly contravening the spirit of it. Or even supposing otherwise, what can be thought of their motives, with closed doors, when as will appear, after these machines had remained about half a year longer in Red Lion Square they were extremely injured in their removal, through Dr. Mashelyne's ignorance of such mechanism (if we may put the softest construction on his conduct) yet no enquiry, nor any amusement on the damage ~~of this~~ to this public property, so called, can be discovered; though it is almost superfluous to add, that had John Harrison been made responsible for their removal (which he would have been happy to have engaged for) & some misfortune had happened through an unforeseen casualty, the P. R. S. with his accustomed meanness would have exacted reparation to the uttermost farthing. retires to 212

Insert at □ p 193 opinion of counsel having been taken, & the Attorney General having decided entirely in favour of the claimant. This would have made "the galled jade" wince & foam. It was impossible with any decency, in the face of the regular authorities, to allege public motives for legislating as he had done, & not a private & malignant purpose. Any disputed point, in Westminster Hall, is always presumed to be decided conceded in favour behalf of the suffering party; & his Lordship must have had more brass than Wood the halfpenny money (the fair occasion for

the circumstances attending
who

exhibited

apposite

defensive & argument

the Dunpier's Letters) if, when borne out by so conclusive a sanc-tion, he yet pretended he could not pay the reward without compunction; while he felt, or affected to feel, none for the scandalous refusal of all manner of facilities for carrying his own measure into effect. But the point that pressed hard-est on the Manager & his pliant colleagues may be antici-pated.

Brought to be inserted after line 10. Page 212

Mr. Burke could not have been aware of the extraordinary transfer described, when (as ~~elsewhere~~ shown in its place) he warmly espoused the cause of the aged Claimant, & deprecated the treatment he had received; or the double refined & unnecessary cruelty ~~of~~ in the above Transmission, under a public plea, which the conduct of the responsible parties thus outraged, would have shown him touching spontan-eously those chords which chime in unison with the finer feelings of our common nature —

While wondering scratches horny upon his tongue.

~~Neither~~ Neither did ~~Lord G. Mornay~~ Jerom the strange in-congruity of one class of candidates becoming judges of the merits of another, or ~~the incongruity~~ he would have pointed out, in his forcible language, with ~~copious~~ illustrations, its tendency to such results. Leaving the learned Astronomers (Maskelyne & Lox) to renew their ~~watch~~ like the water in the Tub of the Danaides, or to in-

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had

-voke subluna[r] mountains to cover them from the odium their conduct would excite. return to 212

From △ p 238 insert John Harrison (who was no trifler) says "The Invention allows of great improvements in its "construction." Yet the ignorant presumption & personal umbrage of the Earl of Morton rendered his further labours of much diminished importance, by the wrong direction given them. Their taking it from him to employ another person instead of the Inventor to prosecute an object of such prime importance as the bringing the Timekeepers into general use is, he justly observes, "what after ages will hardly be "brieve." The consequential nobleman whose fame lasted no longer than the hatchment affixed to his mansion was dead but left "Elijah's mantle" to the majority at the Board; whence resulted this unsuccessful agreement with M.r Kendal: for although he was a superior workman, & could make parts like parts so well, that his copy proved ever more accurate than the original yet when, pursuant to his new engagement, he attempted a modification of the Timekeeper, that called for inventive powers, which he had not, his production fell too much below the standard proposed. — It may be assumed as quite plain, that all the energies of "Nature's Mechanic" should have been directed to the purpose of the second renewed contract with M.r Kendal: & he had given an earnest of what was to be expected from him, provided the work

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was adapted to increase his reputation, & insure him the cheers of the British mariner — (which was not the case ~~with the [illegible] the [illegible]~~ with the task ~~[illegible]~~ so rashly thrust on him by Lord Morton's bill rendered tenfold more irksome, as that was, by the refusal of the model:) for after

to ℔ 23¢ line 3.

from ℔ 23¢ □ Timekeeper than the one a copy, being settled; the Commissioners having lost their Manager Promp-ter, ~~&c, it is more than probable, would have suffered such things (perhaps except the public dissatisfaction had left him only Robert's chair)~~ show indications to them of some willingness to retrace their steps here, & to allow that they did not understand the subject quite so well as John Harrison. They listen to back to ℔ 23¢ ○

Insert at ℔ 240 ++ Evidence has occasionally been offered in our courts of law, to set aside some persons dispositions of his estate & effects, on the ground of insanity in the testator, less respectable than what might have been adduced here against the Commissioners, whose gravity was nowise synonimous with wisdom (humanity was out of the question) if they expected a man at the age of near 70 to venture with them in a trial which might occupy three or four years, unless he had alternative no alt.

Had the letter specified in the minutes of the ex Board of (14th. December) been given in its place, instead of being quoted in such unsatisfactory fashion, it is likely it would have pre-

The Secretary's Transcript passed under

explanation becomes necessary on that account.— Under
the act to amend,

-verted an indistinctness of meaning which there was no ex-
-cuse for when ~~in a degree blunt the Institution~~ ~~depended on~~ the supervision of six professed literati, unless the resort is either to a habit of non interference, imbibed during Lord Morton's protectorate, or to the common saying ~~that~~ what is eve-
-ry body's business becomes nobodies. ~~Under the attempted~~
explain & alter. The Claimant was required to construct two more Timekeepers, which their own gross misconduct, in refusing him the model, had principally prevented (as has been shewn) but another having been made by a different hand, which was conformity to the spirit, though not to the letter of that perso-
-nal measure: if this last was ~~meant to represent~~ accepted as a substitute for the second new Watch demanded from him provided that after a close inspection William Harrison should be willing to abide by it (on behalf of his father) there would be two ready to be tried in any reasonable ~~manner~~ form: that is, one which should combine the interests of the public with those of the Claimant. To bring those objects to bear, was the sole reason of his proposition to embark the original Timekeeper in the vessels fitting out for a voyage of discovery, in the room of Mr. Kendal's. Had not such a com-
-promise been forced on him by his situation as he was situa-
-tion, it was ~~very~~ extremely disagreeable that the successful Watch should be exposed to the various hazards of such a protracted voyage. To ww second line ℔ 241

undertaking

Such to the discredit of that delicacy of motive which the biographers of John Harrison attribute to the Commissioners, no trace ~~of it~~ can be found any where, of a reflection that was to have been looked for among a set of educated men more or less conversant with business. — When Mr. Kendal states his having laid aside his private business for two years, are we to suppose that / with the exception of Lord Morton, who was incapable of entertaining or understanding any such particular / no Member of the Board, when They had nothing better to attend to, was adverted to the fact that the Claimant had wholly sacrificed the emolument he might have derived from his extraordinary abilities differently directed. He had not devoted two years only, but more than forty — all the prime of his life to the ignis fatuus which their encouragement promoted till the promised success of his enterprize disclosed that jealousy in the Mathematicians, which the avowal of Dr. Bradley bitterly, & the conduct of his successor Professor Bliss so remarkably illustrates. — Could the Candidate have foreseen this humbling work, it would have been more than sufficient to deter him from the enterprize in which he embarked his expectations of pushing his fortune in the world; for he was not cut out to fight his way through the complicated troubles in which he found himself involved, & it cannot but have been remarked, in the preceding narrative, that his son being of a different cast of mind ~~from~~ he put him forward on all occasions to bear the brunt of the battle, & never appeared on the scene himself but when

absolutely necessary. His retired habits, & seldom seeing any person but on business unfitted him for such contests, insomuch that the reward doubled, trebled & quadrupled would never would have made him turn aside from quiet avocations with a foreknowledge of what he was to suffer from the ignorance. The inhumanity & the meanness of the Noblemen who, when the objections that were taken after the first voyage could no longer be refuted, directed the whole proceedings against him (to wreak them) — if instead of chasing the prize held out by Parliament the Legislature, in a navigation so encumbered with shoals & quicksands, he had established himself in business in the Metropolis, as Tompion & Graham had done before him, the surprising accuracy of his astronomical clocks, leaving him without a rival in either hemisphere, & the consequent high price they would have borne making our adventurer independent without that overmeasure of vexation & inquietude which resulted from the interested or the uncouth characters he had to deal with: it seems rational to take that view of this part of the subject which the Commissioners never took, although a state & period might have shown them by a few figures how much the supposed obligation, which John Harrison owed to the public, was lessened with the assistance of such accountants. — Will any person say that, with his reputation, his [redacted] earnings would be overrated at £500 a year of the money of that day, since there is reason to believe his predecessors, just mentioned, would command more than that income, the aggregate of which in 40 years is precisely equal to the larger reward, which sounds so high if made good at one payment; & if, comparing ranks

This Gentleman, who seems deficient in a knowledge of
chronometry may find that the contemnators
we must observe that the unhappiness accruing ~~to be this~~
~~will~~ to this genius
~~proves unhappiness~~

and

give the Son £200 for twenty years, the sum total being 24,000, is that which Mr. Croker who knew nothing of the weary struggles it cost a quiet man, nor of the extreme hazard to the life of the younger Harrison in the Merlin, considered the Father & Son as very fortunate in having acquired from the public grant. The criticisms of Dr. Rees thought the improvements introduced by "Mr Harrison" not overpaid; but the unhappiness ensued from having "pinned his faith on an English act of Parliament" would have made him indignantly reject such a contest for the premium, had not Providence, which kindly conceals the future from the ken of man, kept him unknowing of his destiny forego such a contest for the premium — a contest not with rival mechanics, but with the Lunar Party, who were his judges above all with that anomalous character who seems to have caricatured whatever is respectable in science.

Insert at O.S. 237 — Among which purposes, it is curious to observe how private business blends with public transactions, Dr. Maskelyne could indulge his hobby, the affectation of mechanical knowledge, of which such lamented proofs have been shown. While we do not say he had succeeded the Earl of Morton in every department at the Board (for that was impossible) he may now

be safely presumed to have directed the proceedings herewith related, for none would oppose his opinion, & yet it was not in the nature of [redacted] he would follow that course which public utility called for. He had, under the authority of the Board of Longitude (synonimous with his own) published an account of the going of the Timekeeper at Hamstead with much detracting from the merits of the machine when it was taken out by the seamen, who were highly zealous in its praise; & when he was charged by the Inventor with having shamefully omitted to ascertain that the Watch was in a proper state for the trial, he shrunk in silence from the reproach: but he could frustrate any further benefit looked for from the labours of John Harrison, & was not magnanimous enough to throw that interest into the scale which ought to have predominated. — The minutes of the Board on April 25. 17[illegible]66 might have shown him, if he desired to know the circumstance, that on that day the

New paragraph at △ & 277 It should be observed, that when the Candidate was apprised by the Commissioners, [redacted] with an advance of money, in consequence of the recommendations he [redacted] brought with him from scientific men of the first eminence distinction, it was stipulated in behalf of the public, that such advances were to be regarded as loans to be thereafter included in the reward if he became entitled to it; & this was consonant to equi

Temporal affairs Thats

10 Jar backs as 1737

[illegible] stricted were claimed & taken possession of, under Lord Norton's Act, the case was totally altered. If any person should assist a mechanic with money to complete some work in hardware [illegible], & afterwards receive them to himself without leave of the maker, or enquiring his price, it would be universally held that the latter was exonerated from the original debt. This the P. R. S., [illegible] from [illegible] but George 3. [illegible] to 0533

Note continued from p. 290

had seen the world," the example of George 3. might have furnished a practical antidote to for if the Enlightened Assistants who attended the commission of Longitude — professed scholars, & morality Dispensers, as they were, had paid any attention to what would have been more to the purpose for illustrating a suggestion thus arising out of the subject then many well turned period corrected by the midnight lamp, if they desired to put the axe to "the root of all evil — idleness."

[redacted] ty; nothing being said about
a right of property in the work he should produce;
but when the Machines he had con[redacted]

The effects of education & habit, or [redacted]
of an original [redacted] in his mental [redacted] was inca-
pable of discerning, ^ to ◇320